



# Washington State Department of Early Learning

## EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL (ELAC) MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2008

Tyee Conference Center

### **Overall Purpose:**

The purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) is for representatives from the state's early learning stakeholder communities to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) so that DEL's strategies and actions are well-informed and are broadly supported by parents, early care providers, health/safety experts and interested parties. The Governor holds final authority for policy decisions and her P-20 Council will be made aware of ELAC's input to DEL.

### **Today's Intentions:**

- Discuss future meeting times
- Progress update from the Deputy Director and DEL staff
- "What have you done for a child today?"
- Introduction to and discussion of the new DEL Web Site
- Next Steps

### **In Attendance:**

Robin Arnold-Williams  
Laurie Dolan  
Amber Havens  
Robin Higa  
Jada Rupley  
Linda Sullivan-Dudzic  
Sue Winn

Ann Daley  
Representative Roger Goodman  
Dr. Maxine Hayes  
Lorena Lowell  
Jim Skucy  
Maria Vera

### **Welcome, Overview, Agenda Review**

Dr. Maxine Hayes and Lorena Lowell, co-chairs, welcomed all, reviewed the agenda for the day and the overall purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council. Dr. Hayes relayed that this is National Infant Immunization Week. Washington State has the most improved rates – improved 15%. Immunization is important for early learning for children.

### **Introductions – Who is here?**

Members in attendance introduced themselves. Director Bosworth was out of state.

### **Department of Early Learning – Update**

Deputy Director Amie Lapp Payne welcomed all. A handout of the power point presentation was made available to the Council and will be posted on the Early Learning Advisory Council page of the Department of Early Learning's Website <http://www.del.wa.gov/ELAC/ELAC.html>.

Unlicensed Child Care Forum – discussed purpose: shared information and ideas to address illegally operated unlicensed child care;

Licensed Child Care Information System (LCCIS) Forum – the forum was a huge success with over 130 providers attending. Discussed purpose of the forum; share with providers what we are working on. Participants included DEL staff, licensed family home providers and child care centers and SEIU members. Using all feedback from these forums – information will be updated and posted on website by April 30.

Tribal Nations Early Learning Summit, planned for September 2008 - discussed the intent of the Summit. Maxine would like to see DOH staff involved in the Summit. Robin Higa said that they were just in the beginning stages of the planning. Sue Winn asked about the providers who take care of Native American children- if they will be involved in the training. Training will be held on the west and east side of the state.

The Early Learning Partnership – Thrive by Five, OSPI and DEL resolution signed April 9, 2008. Key priorities that will be worked on closely: Early Learning and Development Benchmarks; professional development; data collection and sharing; kindergarten assessment; and early literacy development. There was discussion on DEL sponsoring a summit on methamphetamine and the issues related to setting up this summit.

ECEAP Expansion – first open, competitive expansion in nearly two decades for state-funded comprehensive preschool program took place. There will be 1,145 new enrollment slots for school year 2008/2009. Discussed the 7 new contactors

DEL/Children's Museum Partnership – discussed recent event to launch the partnership – 13 museums around the state getting the \$20,000 grant.

DEL Legislative Update – Sonali Patel, Senior Policy Analyst for the Department. Discussed Supplement Budget request; SSHB 3168 – Creation of Washington Head Start Program and Budget Proviso – report due in conjunction with ELAC by June 30, 2009 on administration of STARS and Evaluation of the CCR&R Network. Also budget proviso on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and Private Match Investment.

DEL Public Awareness Campaign – Amy Blondin, DEL Communications Managers, did the presentation. Kickoff event during the Week of the Young Child at the Seattle Children's Museum. New brochure and bumper stickers, "What have you done to help a Child Today?" were presented and available to all for distribution.

DEL Website Launch – Amy Blondin introduced Kate Ramsey and company from the RAMP Group who worked on the DEL Website redesign. Handouts and presentation materials were provided and will be available at <http://www.del.wa.gov/ELAC/ELAC.html>.

### **Exchange of Information**

Sue Winn – Negotiated Rule Making Group has gone thru two sections of rules. Regarding the council meeting itself, she is feeling really rushed. Like to see more that that directly affect children

Robin Higa – Getting parents to participate in Seeds of Compassion

Robin Arnold-Williams – Discussed a video produced “No Excuse for Child Abuse.” Robin will make sure all council members get a copy of this video through Kate

Maxine – In Department of Health is seeing more outbreaks of Infectious Diseases.

Lorena – would like to see more training for child care centers on what diseases need to be report to the Health District. Washington has the highest exemption rate – at 6%.

Linda – Reported on Successful decreases in waivers. She would like to see more in depth discussions.

Amber/Robin – Accreditation for Child Care Programs – there is a lack of resources accessing for children with special needs. Providers need to be trained.

Representative Goodman – Would like to see more information on QRIS.

### **Public Comments**

Suzie Wright from Tulalip Tribes; Commented on the Tribal Summit;

Vaughnetta Barton – felt work of the council and the signing of the OSPI/Thrive by Five/ DEL resolution is very exciting.

Donna Horne – gave positive feedback that DEL is really listening to the parents now and gave positive feedback about the LCCIS forums. She spoke about the DEL website and parents not being aware of it.

Agda Burchard – from WAEYC commented on the work of the Collaborative.

### **Future Meetings, Next Agenda Items, Next Steps**

The next meeting will be held June 4, 2008 with extended hours at the same location – Tyee Conference Center.

Next Steps: Amber and Kate will connect regarding the Tribal Summit; Summit on Meth and Date will be shared; Kate touch bases with Robin on Theory of Change – Strengthening Families; WA Head Start Data and Report; Keep doing updates from DEL: Ready or Not Book – Kate will get this book to all council members.

For all ELAC communications please send email to [elac@del.wa.gov](mailto:elac@del.wa.gov).